

REMARKS

This Response is filed in reply to the Office Action dated February 16, 2006, which is an Election/Restriction. The Examiner asserted that the application contains two groups of inventions related as process and apparatus for its practice and that it is well known in the art to use dual arm wafer handlers to speed up handling of wafers by moving a processed wafer and an unprocessed wafer to and from a wafer cassette and a process chamber at the same time. The groups provided by the Examiner are as follows:

Group I, claims 1-22 and 60-78; and

Group II, claims 51-59.

In response, Applicant provisionally elects, with traverse, Group I, claims 1-22 and 60-78. Applicant notes that the Group II system claims each recite that the wafers are delivered to the processing system from the first cassette using both the first and second arms. This feature makes the claimed systems particularly adapted for use with the methods recited in the Group I claims. Conversely, the Group I method claims recite the coordinated use of first and second arms for handling wafers, which can be particularly practiced using a system as recited in the Group II claims.

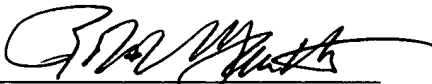
Accordingly, Applicant submits that both groups of claims relate to processes or methods for handling wafers using dual arms operating on wafers from one storage position, or cassette. Applicant respectfully requests that the Election/Restriction Requirement be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants consider the Response herein to be fully responsive to the referenced Office Action. Based on the above Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, allowance is requested. If there are any remaining issues or the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in expediting the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at 617-832-1175.

Dated: March 15, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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